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ACTION AID-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	PERC-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	LAB-01	CAC-00	VCE-00	AC-00	NSAE-00	OMB-00	ACE-00
	CFPP-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	IRM-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/001W				

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7443

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 002669

NSC FOR CBARTON

HQ USSOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

USAID DCHA/OTI FOR RPORTER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/25/2014

TAGS: PGOV, KDEM, VE

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION ALLEGES ELECTRONIC FRAUD IN REFERENDUM

Classified By: POLITICAL COUNSELOR ABELARDO A. ARIAS FOR REASON 1.4 (d)

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SUMMARY  
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1. (U) Miranda state Gov. Enrique Mendoza told reporters August 18 the opposition would not participate in the audit of election results agreed to by the National Electoral Council (CNE) at the suggestion of the OAS and Carter Center. The Coordinadora instead wants an audit that would look at the software used in the August 15 presidential recall referendum. Chavez opponents found similarities in results at specific voting machines that they allege to be statistically

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/RPS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)

DECLASSIFY AFTER: 18 AUG 2029

DATE/CASE ID: 02 NOV 2005 200304736

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highly improbable. A computer analysis of Baruta municipality results by the Coordinadora found other anomalies leading them to claim that an algorithm was at work that increased the number of no votes and capped the number of yes votes. Coordinadora representative presented part of the information to international observers. CNE director called the opposition allegations irresponsible. He said the CNE would proceed with the audit, noting that the audit would not change the results of the election. End Summary.

### ----- Opposition Won't Play -----

2. (U) Miranda state Gov. Enrique Mendoza, leader of the Coordinadora Democratica, ordered Coordinadora supporters around the country August 18 not to participate in an audit by the National Electoral Council (CNE) of the August 15 referendum results. The audit, negotiated by the OAS and Carter Center, would involve a check of the paper receipts from 150 electoral tables with the information the electronic voting system transmitted during the referendum. Speaking to reporters, Mendoza showed alleged evidence of fraud the Coordinadora claims took place during the August 15 referendum. He showed statistics which allegedly indicate that voting machines were programmed to produce a pre-determined number of yes and no votes. He also showed machine-by-machine results with the same number of yes votes in different centers in Baruta municipality (Caracas), which Mendoza said was the result of an algorithm which automatically increased the number of no votes in each center. (Note: Mendoza's public presentation was a disaster, with him tripping over his own explanation.)

### ----- Improbable Similarity in Results -----

3. (U) The possible irregularities in the voting table numbers were first revealed by Bolivar state Governor Antonio Rojas Suarez August 17. Rojas told reporters that several tally sheets from his state showed that machines in one voting center each had 133 yes votes. Bolivar state Legal advisor J.J. Rendon appearing on all news channel Globovision, showed several original tally sheets indicating that results from machines at the same voting table indicated the same number of yes votes or a lower number. This pattern repeated for nine tables for which Rendon had the tally sheets, which he alleged is statistically highly improbable. Chavez opponents continue to examine tally sheets from around

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the country, and as of 1900 local August 18, similar anomalies had been found in Zulia, Aragua and Nueva Esparta states, according to press reports.

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Fooling the Quick Count  
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4. (U) A pattern was evident when looking at the results at the voting machine level, but is lost when numbers are examined at the mesa level. This makes the discrepancy

undetectable to the "quick count" method used by the national and international observers, according to Rendon, because the quick count looks at random tally sheets. These random checks would not reveal this type of anomaly, since a different upper limit for the yes votes appear to have been set. The anomaly is only apparent if one looks at the tally sheet from machines at the same table, according to Rendon. Rendon said only a recount of the paper ballots would reveal the true results of the referendum.

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Coordinadora Pushes for Audit  
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6. (U) After the finding of the statistical anomalies by Chavez opponents August 17, National Assembly deputy, and

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Coordinadora CNE liaison, Nelson Rampersad told reporters on August 18 that the Coordinadora had asked the Carter Center and the OAS mission to conduct a more exhaustive audit of the August 15 presidential recall referendum. Rampersad said the Coordinadora had asked the international observers to count the paper receipts from more than the scheduled 150 electoral tables, and to look at the electronic voting machines' programming, as well as the programming of the central server of the CNE.

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CNE Says No WAY  
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7. (U) CNE director Jorge Rodriguez told reporters the CNE refused to change the terms of the audit it is conducting. Rodriguez argued that the similarity in voting results, was to be expected in a polarized election. He showed statistics of similar voting patterns in several voting tables. (Comment: Rodriguez knocked down a straw man, since the opposition's argument is not that the results were similar at the mesa level, but when individual machines were compared.)

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